

The Passing Throng.

"Uncle Tom's Cabin" a True Picture.

Colonel Henry Watterson, of Kentucky, does not agree with F. Hopkinson Smith's recent assertion that "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was an untruthful picture of slavery days in the South, or that the book has done and is still doing harm to the Southern people. When seen at the Waldorf Astoria yesterday, Colonel Watterson said:

"Mr. F. Hopkinson Smith says that 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' did a great deal to precipitate the war. 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' did undoubtedly make a great impression upon the susceptibilities of the people of the United States—and nowhere more than in the Southern States—who instantly recognized its fidelity to truth. But to say that it cut any figure in the final crisis is wholly a misconception. Nothing could have delayed the ultimate trials of arms more than four years. If Judge Douglas had been elected President in 1860 the war between the sections would have been postponed from 1861 to 1865. Mrs. Stowe's novel was merely a spoke in an exorable wheel, which for the time being represented perpetual motion. But so far from being a cruel attack upon the people of the South, it was a most kindly representation. Mrs. Stowe begins with the sunny side of slavery in Kentucky and indicates its possibilities by traversing the career of Uncle Tom to a Louisiana plantation. But you will observe that the villain of the book, Legree, is a Yankee, and that leads me to say—what, indeed, Abraham Lincoln preceded me in saying—that the Yankees brought the nigger to America in their ships and sold him to the Southerners. I think it extremely unkind that, having got their money, they came down South in 1861 and annihilated property of their own creation. But that is neither here nor there. All the gentlemen of the South in the days of Washington and Jefferson were opposed to slavery. It was a wholly monstrous and indefensible institution. Even in 1861 the good men and women of the South were at heart opposed to the whole system. With a gray jacket on my back for four years, I was an outspoken sentimental free soiler. At Dalton, Ga., in the winter of 1863-4, General Hindman submitted to General Joseph E. Johnston, the commanding general of the Confederate Army, a scheme to emancipate the entire black population of the South and to conscript them upon the basis of their 'white fellow citizens.' General Hindman took the expression 'white fellow citizens' from a proclamation issued by General Andrew Jackson when in command before New Orleans in 1814-15. General Johnston entirely approved this plan, but, the only general in the council of war who supported him being General Hardee, it was abandoned."

NOT AN ATTACK ON THE SOUTHERN PEOPLE.

"I know it to be a fact," continued Colonel Watterson, "that England and France would have intervened in our war on Southern side if slavery could have been put in the shape of gradual emancipation. Nobody, not even Mr. Davis, could give any assurance on this point to the French and British governments. God be praised, because to that circumstance we owe our solidarity as a Nation to day. But to come back to 'Uncle Tom's Cabin.' It is one of the great books of the world. I

am willing to bet the author of Colonel Carter of Cartersville's cigar that he never read 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' and leave the decision of the bet to him. It is this dreadful sensitivity of provincialism, this astounding ignorance of the world at large, that has kept the South in leading strings for a hundred years. The leaders of the South, not to mention a certain George Washington, but particularly to mention one Thomas Jefferson, knew slavery to be abhorrent to manhood, womanhood and all the graces of human life. The South is well rid of it. Mr. Smith is wholly mistaken in supposing that the Negro is worse off than in slavery."

A TRIBUTE TO MR. WASHINGTON.

Booker Washington, a great and noble man, one of the greatest men living to-day, considering practical affairs as the test of greatness, is doing an amazing work, and if the true and good men of the North having money to spend on philanthropy would contribute a little attention and some money to the development of his scheme at Tuskegee Ala., it would pay richly on the investment. In short and in fine, while I am not surprised at Mr. Hopkinson Smith's verdict about a book of which he cannot know a great deal—even if he has read it—he falls into the prevailing error of the educated Southerner, in supposing that attacks upon the institution of African slavery are attacks upon the people of the South. The South is open to great impressions. The Nicaraguan Canal will revolutionize all conditions in Texas and the Gulf States. It will convert the Gulf of Mexico into the Mediterranean of the Western Hemisphere. Mr. Hopkinson Smith is a great painter, I am afraid I must say a great romanticist. Though 'Colonel Carter of Cartersville' shocked my sensibilities as a Southern man, and particularly as a Virginia product, very much more than did Mrs. Stowe's 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' literary criticism avails. There never was yet a literary man who was not a hopeless politician. 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' was a great book and Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe was a great woman.—New York Tribune.

"The V. N. and C. I."

For The Colored American.

Near the city of Petersburg,
As seen by the passers-by
In the neighborhood of Ettricks,
Stands the V. N. and C. I.

A building loved by many
Who have toiled within her walls,
And tried to respond with pleasure
To every beck and call.

Her situation is beautiful,
As lofty she stands
Facing the Appomattox
So picturesque and grand.

In the beautiful month of September
As the days glide swiftly by,
Students leave their various homes
For the V. N. and C. I.

And ere many hours have passed
They're sheltered within her walls
Their minds from pleasure cast,
To answer to her calls.

And for months, weeks and days,
Earnestly they work—
On their different studies
Trying none to shirk.

And after the cold, wintry days have passed,
Still resuming their daily tasks,
They're told of the coming spring
By the birds as they sweetly warble and sing.

And then on the beautiful campus green
Of the V. N. and C. I. may be seen,
Students who seem to have won much fame
In playing the various outdoor games.

The girls with croquet and tennis employed,
Seem to enjoy it much; Joyed
While the boys with their football seem over
As it lightly moves at a touch.

After a few years shall have passed,
And these boys and girls shall have finished
their task,
No more their faces will be seen,
Or their voices heard on the campus green.

As in various sections their lots may be cast,
Fond recollections they'll have of the past,
And as years, months and days glide slowly
Ever they'll remember, V. N. and C. I. (by).

—By MAGGIE Y. POGUE.

Colored Model Makers Wanted.

Houston, Tex., Feb. 2 1901.

Edward E. Cooper, Washington, D. C., My dear sir:—I beg to ask a favor of you; if you know of any colored man in or near your city who is a model or instrument maker or inventor or in a kindred business please give me his name and I will consider it a favor.

Very truly, S. T.

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The carpenter does not like to wear a valuable watch when he is hammering around, and this Frederick Douglass Watch is just the watch. This can be had without the expenditure of one penny. Get us two one year subscribers at two dollars, or four six months subscribers at \$1.10, or eight three months subscribers at sixty cents each. Send these names with the money and a Frederick Douglass Watch will be sent you by registered mail. It is guaranteed. Address The Colored American, 459 C street, n. w., Washington, D. C.

In Oklahoma there are 60,000 colored people, men, women and children, or 13,000 colored voters; from careful compilation of statistics there are 7,000 colored men owning farms, which will strike an average of \$800 each; which is a very low average, as there are numbers of colored farmers who can cash their farms today for \$3,000. But placing all at \$800 each, that would make a grand total of at least \$5,600,000 owned in farm property by colored men of Oklahoma.—Rising Sun, Kansas City, Mo.

A BOOK FREE Tuskegee! True story of Tuskegee Institute and Booker Washington's wonderful work, illustrated. Send stamp how to get book free. F. L. TYLER, Charlemon, Mass.

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